



Dear Superintendent or Commissioner of Education,

Greetings from The National WWII Museum! We would like to take this opportunity to share some of our new educational resources and scholarship opportunities with you and the teachers and students across your state.

Each year, The National WWII Museum sponsors two essay contests for middle and high school students. Student participants are asked to reflect on an annual theme related to the WWII experience and to connect this to an aspect of their own lives. In honor of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, this year's essay prompt asks students to think about a time in their lives when they had to make important plans for success in spite of uncertainty, much like Eisenhower and the Allied Forces did for the Invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Students must address the question "How did you plan to achieve success in the face of the unknown?"

Additional information about the Museum's **National 2014 High School Essay Contest** and **2014 Middle School Essay Contest**, including contest rules deadlines, is available on our web site at www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests. **High school participants have the chance to win as much as \$1,000, while middle school students can win \$250. Winning essays will also be posted on the Museum's website.** We would like to ensure that as many students in your state have the opportunity to participate as possible. Therefore, I ask that you please forward this information to the appropriate person or persons within your state.

As part of our ongoing mission to tell the story of the American Experience during WWII, including the war's lasting impact upon our country, the Museum has launched a new Digital Collections website at <http://ww2online.org>. This educational resource currently contains 150 oral history interviews and several thousand archival photographs from our collection. More information on this web site, including suggested lesson plans for the classroom, can be found in the enclosed booklet, "Giving Voice to the Past." Again, we ask you to please share this collection of primary sources with curriculum specialists and teachers across your state to use as they explore the history and lessons of WWII with America's youth.

Thank you for your time and assistance in sharing our educational opportunities and resources with teachers and students within your state. If you or your colleagues have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 504-528-1944, ext. 264, or educator@nationalww2museum.org.

Sincerely,

Megan Byrnes
K-12 Curriculum Coordinator

The War That Changed The World™



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM

2014 MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST



“THE WAY IT’S GOING TO BE:” Planning For Victory (or Success) at All Costs

“This operation is not being planned with any alternatives. This operation is planned as a victory, and that’s the way it’s going to be. We’re going down there, and we’re throwing everything we have into it, and we’re going to make it a success.”

- GENERAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER, JANUARY 1944

On June 6, 2014, the world will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion to liberate Europe from Nazi rule. To commemorate the importance of this event, The National WWII Museum asks you to think about a time in your life where you have had to make important plans for success in spite of uncertainty.

For your essay, please address the following questions: **How did you plan to achieve success in the face of the unknown?** How did you handle any challenges to reach your goal? How does your story connect to those of other people, past and present, who have had to

face and overcome tremendous odds to obtain their goal? Use WWII as a starting point and base your essay in part on America’s involvement in WWII. But don’t stop in the past. Use specific examples from your own experiences that support your ideas. **This is NOT a research paper.** Your essay will be judged foremost for its originality, clarity of expression and adherence to contest theme, as well as its historical accuracy, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Museum staff will read and evaluate entries.



The leaders of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)

REQUIREMENTS:

Contest is open to **all students in grades 5-8** in the United States, US territories and military bases. Your essay must be **500 words or less**. Only one essay per student may be submitted. The Museum will accept the first 500 properly formatted entries only. The website will indicate when we are approaching 500 submitted essays.

Essays must be submitted through nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests by March 28, 2014, 5:00 pm CST.

AWARDS:

The Museum will select **one winning essay from each grade**. Winners will receive a **\$250 prize**. Three honorable mentions from each grade will receive a WWII Museum baseball cap. Winning essays will be posted on The National WWII Museum’s website, along with honorable mentions.

www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests



2014 HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST



“THE WAY IT’S GOING TO BE:” Planning For Victory (or Success) at All Costs

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The leaders of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)

Contest is open to **all high school students** in the United States, US territories and military bases. Your essay must be **1,000 words or less**. Only one essay per student may be submitted. The Museum will accept the first 500 properly formatted entries only. The website will indicate when we are approaching 500 submitted essays.

Essays must be submitted through nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests by March 28, 2014, 5:00 pm CST.

First place-- \$1,000 **Second place**-- \$750 **Third place**-- \$500

Winning essays will be posted on The National WWII Museum’s website, along with honorable mentions.

www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests